

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY GABORONE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

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AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN NEW YORK 01679

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UNGA, SF, WA

SUBJECT: NAMIBIA: DEVELOPMENTS AT THE UNITED NATIONS

1. THE FRONTLINE STATES REPRESENTATIVES (INCLUDING THE FOREIGN MINISTERS OF TANZANIA, ZAMBIA, AND NIGERIA) MET AM APRIL 26 WITH SWAPO PRESIDENT SAM NUJOMA. ACCORDING TO FRONTLINE SOURCES, THE MEETING WAS MOST DISCOURAGING. THE FRONTLINE REPRESENTATIVES WERE SUBJECTED BY NUJOMA TO ANTI-IMPERIALIST RHETORIC, COMPLETE WITH ALLEGATIONS OF WESTERN FIVE COMPLICITY IN THE TIMING OF SOUTH AFRICA'S ACCEPTANCE OF THE WESTERN PROPOSALS. THE FRONTLINE REPRESENTATIVES
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WERE ANNOYED AND FRUSTRATED BY NUJOMA'S APPARENT ANTI-IMPERIAL PREOCCUPATION AND RESULTING UNREASONABLENESS.

2. FOLLOWING FRONTLINE MEETING, NIGERIAN COMMISSIONER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS GARBA SPOKE WITH AMBASSADOR YOUNG AND SUGGESTED THAT IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF SECRETARY VANCE COULD MEET WITH NUJOMA. GARBA'S VIEW

WAS THAT NUJOMA STILL WISHED FOR CONTINUED NEGOTIATIONS AND THAT IT WAS NECESSARY TO MAKE CLEAR TO HIM AGAIN THAT THE NEGOTIATIONS WOULD NOT/NOT CONTINUE. GARBA'S SUGGESTION WAS REFERRED TO THE DEPARTMENT, AND AN APPOINTMENT FOR GARBA AND NUJOMA HAS NOW BEEN SCHEDULED WITH THE SECRETARY FOR 0930 APRIL 27.

3. IN THE AFTERNOON THE AFRICAN GROUP MET WITH NUJOMA. THE MEETING WAS SCHEDULED TO BEGIN AT 1500 HOURS, BUT NUJOMA ARRIVED AN HOUR LATE. THE BRIEF AND UNNOTEWORTHY MEETING WHICH ENSUED WAS ADJOURNED UNTIL TOMORROW MORNING (APRIL 27).

4. THERE IS TALK THAT NUJOMA WILL BE MAKING A SUBSTANTIVE PRESS STATEMENT TOMORROW. THE TIMING IS UNCLEAR, AND THE LIKELIHOOD OF SUCH A STATEMENT IS NOW THROWN INTO DOUBT BY THE SCHEDULED MEETING WITH THE SECRETARY.

5. THROUGHOUT THE CORRIDORS OF THE UNITED NATIONS, WALVIS BAY HAS EMERGED AS THE PERCEIVED PRIMARY STICKING POINT. NEARLY EVERY CONVERSATION WITH THOSE ATTENDING THE SPECIAL SESSION ON NAMIBIA EVENTUALLY (IF NOT IMMEDIATELY) TURNS TO WALVIS BAY AND THE NEED FOR A WESTERN STATEMENT ON THE MATTER.

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6. COMMENT. WE BELIEVE THE SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH NUJOMA IS MOST IMPORTANT. IT WILL PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY TO EXPLAIN TO NUJOMA THAT THE TIME FOR NEGOTIATING IS OVER, TO EMPHASIZE THE FLEETING OPPORTUNITY WHICH IS BEFORE SWAPO, AND TO EXPLAIN TO HIM THE IMPACT ON WESTERN MEDIA AND PUBLIC OPINION IF SWAPO REMAINS INTRANSIGENT IN LIGHT OF SOUTH AFRICA'S ACCEPTANCE, END COMMENT. YOUNG

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